



Connecting with God,
Connecting with Others,
Changing Our World With Christ's Love

02.26.23

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

February 26, Scout Sunday.
Pastor Jack begins our Lenten
message series, *Jesus and the
Psalms*. Join us in person or
online at

Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Friends,

We are moving into the season of Lent and as I've spoken with pastors and people from other churches, I am impressed with the often-mentioned spiritual practices that people are planning to implement in their lives. Some of those practices include Bible study, journaling, fasting and prayer. Some of my friends have begun these practices in the new year.

How about you? What plans have you made or are planning for your personal Lenten Journey? I'd like to invite you to review the Lenten brochure sent out a week and a half ago with opportunities to be in a Bible study, do Bible journaling or pick up a devotional from the Narthex. There are also outreach opportunities as we support Jail Outreach Ministry, our own food pantry and the hunger-related programs of Micah 6 and Meals on Wheels. In that brochure are all the special services that we will host from Ash Wednesday through Good Friday and our Easter Sunrise Service. Come be a part of these special opportunities to worship our God and appreciate the life of Jesus Christ, whose presence continues with us today through the Holy Spirit.

The message series this Lent is *Jesus and the Psalms*. Jesus quotes the Psalms more than any other book of the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament). As Jesus grew in the faith of his parents and faith community, he would have learned the scriptures from the many times he attended worship with his family. He quoted the scriptures from the moment that he was driven into the wilderness after his baptism to the words he uttered from the cross upon which he died. I was challenged by one of our staff to create this series of messages and it has been a joy to take up that challenge. It is my prayer that we will benefit from listening together to the teachings of Jesus as he quoted scripture and taught his followers to consider deeply the meaning of scripture and how it applied to the time in which he lived.


In this time in which we are watching a war rage on the other side of our earth, combating the ravages of poverty and hunger and mourning the loss of people struck down through gun violence, let's worship together, seek justice, study and pray—the very same things Jesus did when he walked the face of this earth 20 centuries ago.

This past Sunday, I shared some thoughts on the story of Jesus visiting the home of Martha and Mary. While Martha focused on the meal she was preparing for her guest, Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening to his teachings. When Martha attempted to enlist Jesus' support in getting Mary to help with the food preparation, Jesus commended Mary for she had "chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42) This Lenten season, I invite you to choose the "better part" and spend time with Jesus and his fellow followers. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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-  [waterfordcumc](https://twitter.com/waterfordcumc)
-  info@waterfordcumc.org
-  (248) 681-0040
-  3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

Join Pastor Jack and Ruth in Israel!

January 29–February 7, 2024

One of the highlights of my ministry was a trip I took in 1992 to Israel. To this day I have connected with Good Shepherd Travel, a Christian-owned travel agency out of Texas. Brochures are being printed as this article is being written. The Reverend Paul Walters of Church of the Master Lutheran Church in Troy will join us on Sunday, March 5 at 4pm to facilitate our first meeting. (There will be other meetings!) This meeting will be held in our parlor and light refreshments will be served. Rev. Paul Walters has traveled to Israel at least once a year for the last few years and is a wealth of information for those curious about travel to the Holy Land. He will guide us in understanding the scope of the trip, the costs and what's included, as well as answer your questions.

Gun Control Advocacy Day 2023

March 22, 8am – 3pm

United Methodists from around the state will be gathering in East Lansing, Michigan, to advocate for gun control legislation. Advocacy day will be a time of prayer, public witness, and meetings with elected officials that will focus on gun safety. There will be three virtual training events prior to Advocacy Day where individuals will learn how to speak with elected officials.

Michigan United Methodists have joined End Gun Violence Michigan, a growing coalition of clergy, students and educators, physicians, elected officials, and community leaders calling on state legislators to prioritize the passing of common-sense legislation to curb the number of deaths related to gun violence.

There are four legislative issues that are at the heart of End Gun Violence Michigan's advocacy that the group hopes to make a top priority for our elected officials:

- **Universal background checks.** Close a loophole by changing the wording in the current legislation from "handgun" to "firearm" and pass legislation requiring universal background checks for those purchasing a firearm.
- **Safe storage laws for all firearms.** There is a need for clear legislation requiring gun owners to place their guns in a locking device or a secure holding place to prevent minors or anyone from accessing them.




MARCH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Donna Ritchie, 3/4
- Marjorie Frazier, 3/13

HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:

- Walter & Doris Cortese, 3/23, 68 yrs.



Ash Wednesday

February 22nd

6:30–9:00am
Drive Thru Coffee and Ashes

9:00am–Noon
Ashes Available in the Chapel

7:00pm
Service of Ashes

- **Extreme risk protection orders.** Also known as “red flag laws,” these laws would allow a judge to temporarily remove firearms from someone if the judge determines the person may be at risk for harming themselves or others with the firearm.
- **Restrictions on domestic abusers.** Restricting the ability of persons convicted of sexual assault or domestic violence to buy firearms.

There will be three virtual training events before Advocacy Day where you can learn more about the topic and prepare for your meeting with elected officials. All three sessions will be recorded for you to view later if you cannot attend live. The second and third sessions are required in order to attend the meetings with elected officials, to make sure you are well prepared. There will also be a virtual debrief after the event to share key learning and next action steps. Registration is \$20, which will help cover lunch and related expenses, and scholarships are available from the Michigan Conference.

For more information or to register, visit <https://michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2023/>. We will plan to carpool to the event, so once you have registered please let Robin Danek know by emailing rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

Bible Journaling the Psalms

Thursdays, 10—11am February 23rd—March 30th

As part of our Lent programming we will practice creative journaling using the Psalms from Pastor Jack’s message series *Jesus and the Psalms*. We’ll be using the book *Inspire Psalms* which is available from the office for \$15, or you can purchase a copy online at <https://www.christianbook.com/inspire-psalms-coloring-creative-journaling-through/9781496419873/pd/419873>. Please sign up in the Narthex or email Robin Danek (rdanek@waterfordcumc.org) if you plan to join us.

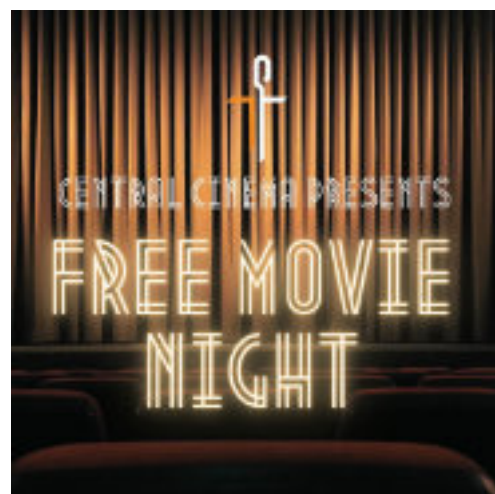
Another Phishing Expedition

Last week staff received another email, allegedly from Pastor Jack, requested help with a request he wanted us to “handle discreetly” (sic). As you might have guessed, this is yet another spam email. Do NOT respond to these emails. Always check the email header to insure that any suspicious-sounding email is actually coming from the email address you would expect it to come from.

Central’s New Website

You may have noticed that Central’s website has a new look. The new site is much more mobile-friendly than our previous site, making it easier to get information on the go. But don’t worry, your favorite content is still there, including:

- Online worship (from the home page button: Go to Online Worship)
- Archived worship services (from the home page, or the menu: Worship=>Worship Archive)



Saturday, March 4th 6pm
Queen Bees

After reluctantly agreeing to move to a senior facility, an independent woman encounters a clique of mean-spirited women and flirtatious suitors. She eventually finds friendship and love, things that she has been missing in her life.
PG-13

- Recent sermons (from the home page or the menu: Study & Grow=>Message Archive)
- The online Connection Card/Attendance form (from the home page button: Connect, or the menu: Worship=>Attendance)
- The Prayer Request form (from the menu: Care & Prayer=>Prayer Request)
- The Giving page (from the menu: Giving)
- Past issues of the Chimes newsletter (from the menu: About Central=>Newsletters)
- The Little Sprouts (from the menu: Children & Youth=>Little Sprouts or from the link in the footer)
- The online directory (from the menu: About Central=>Directory). To use the online directory, contact the church office for the username and password.
- The Calendar (from the menu: Events)
- News & Events (from the menu: News & Events)
- Forms (from the footer link: Forms)

If you're having trouble finding something or would like to see content added to our website, feel free to contact Robin Danek at rdanek@waterfordcumc.org or (248) 681-0040.

WRWA Towel Collection

Though February we will be collecting new and gently used, clean towels for the Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance. Please put donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you.

Thank You

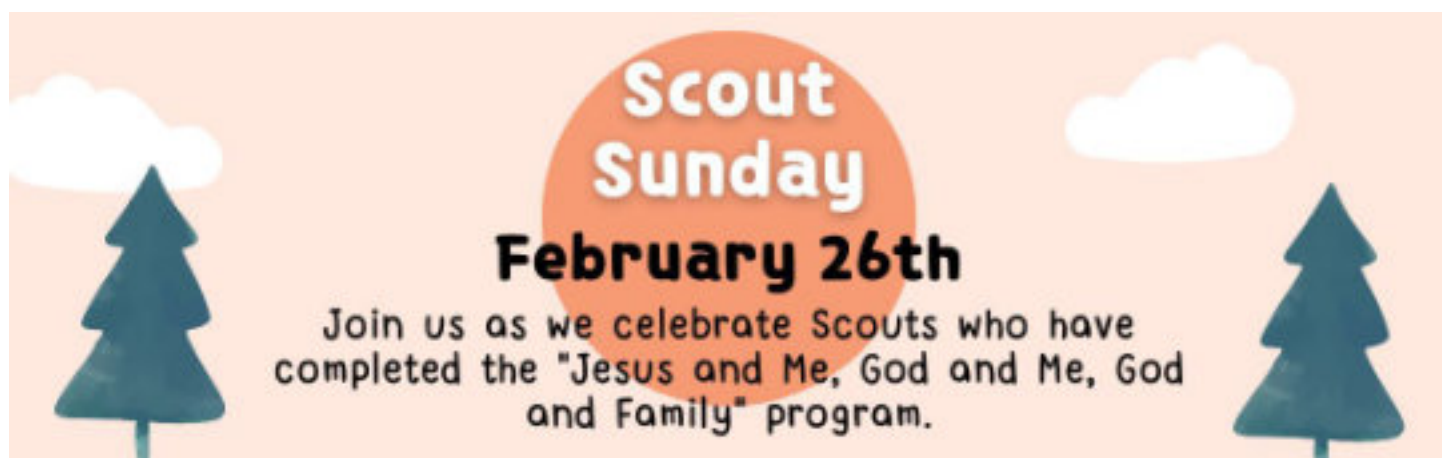
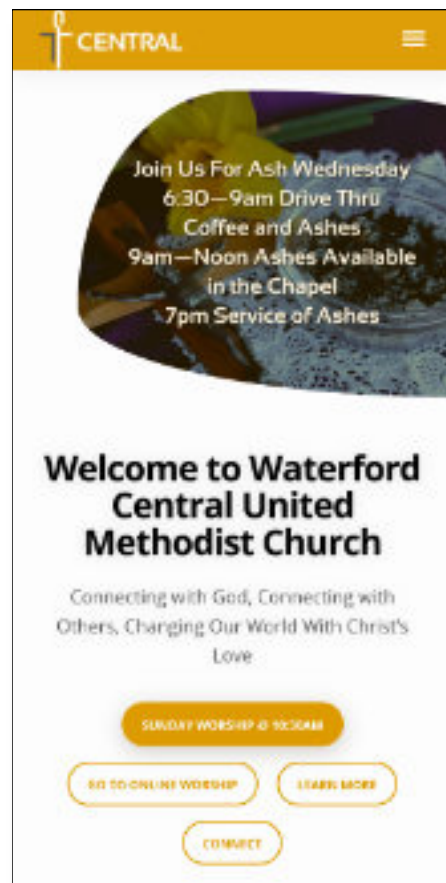
I was a first-timer at this last Men's Summit. What I can share with you is that it was refreshing in all respects and I enjoyed it and appreciate it immensely.

But key to what really made it special came not only from the fine material and leadership provided by Pastor Jack, but also the comments, sharing, insight, and encouragement of all the participants.

Thank you, guys! Thank you, Pastor Jack! And Skyline Camp/Resort was a great place.

-Bob Swartz

The deadline for articles for the March 12th issue of *Chimes* is Thursday, March 2nd.



Use This Form to Order Your Easter Lilies by March 12th, 2023



As part of our Easter celebration, we will be ordering lilies to use at the altar on Easter Sunday. If you wish to order lilies please fill out the information below and place your order and payment in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.

Please print clearly so we are able to correctly spell the names of your loved ones.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS:

Sunday, March 12, 2023 COST PER PLANT: \$7.00

Name of Donor(s) _____

Phone Number: _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

Amount Enclosed: Number of Plants _____ X \$7.00 = \$ _____

Please do not include monies for the plants with your regular offering.